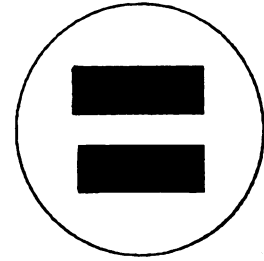


# Update



July 1994

## THE URBAN LEAGUE OF PORTLAND

The Urban League of Portland has worked to promote equal opportunity for all Oregonians since 1945. The League was originally formed to advocate for African Americans who came to Portland to build ships during World War II. When Blacks were denied access to jobs and housing after the war, the League supported legislation and policies which promoted equal treatment in employment, housing and education. Today the League has a multicultural mission *"to assist African Americans and others in achieving parity and economic self-sufficiency through advocacy, community problem-solving, partnerships and by conducting programs designed to strengthen the growth and development of individuals, families and communities."*

The League continues to advocate for those who have experienced discrimination and also operates programs that directly serve the needs of constituents. These programs and their activities for the year ending July 1, 1994 are described below.

### ADULT & SENIOR SERVICES

The Adult and Senior Service Center is one of eight district Senior Service Centers in Multnomah County. The Center has two primary goals:

- 1) *To provide services to the elderly and disabled population that allow them to live independently in their homes with dignity as long as it is possible and reasonably safe.*
- 2) *To provide activities to senior and disabled citizens that will enhance their social skills and provide them with opportunities for personal growth.*

Case management and transportation services are provided to individuals who are experiencing problems that jeopardize their independent living and diminish their lifestyle. In the last fiscal year the Center enrolled 133 new clients and served 824 clients overall.

The Urban League is the lead agency for the **Multicultural Senior Center** at the intersection of Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd and N.E. Killingsworth in Northeast Portland. The Senior Services staff is co-located with Loaves and Fishes' Northeast Meal Site and Multnomah County's Aging Services' Northeast Branch, offering a "single point of entry" for senior and disabled services, with a focus on cultural diversity.

Social activities are provided for senior and disabled citizens to develop leadership skills and establish community involvement. Activities help seniors build self-esteem, which makes for a healthy and enjoyable lifestyle. About 100 seniors attend the Center daily for activities and meals. Center programs include:

**Grandparents Education and Support Group:** 125 "parenting" grandparents are working together to improve their parenting skills and gain better access to services important to them and their grandchildren. A Grandparents Support Group meets every week. The Urban League will sponsor a statewide conference to look at grandparent parenting issues on August 26-27, 1994 at Emanuel Hospital. Call 248-5470 for details.

**Living with Alzheimer's or normal forgetfulness:** A support group for ten caregivers meets to share strategies, ideas, and laughter. In July the Center began a respite program for Alzheimer's clients.

## **WHITNEY M. YOUNG, JR. EDUCATION & CULTURAL CENTER**

The Whitney M. Young, Jr. Education & Cultural Center is an after-school homework/tutorial assistance program for students who could not otherwise afford supplemental academic assistance. During the school year the Center is open from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m., Monday through Thursday. A summer program runs for four weeks which emphasizes reading, math, writing and other fundamental skills.

The Center includes a multicultural library, computers, guest speakers, cultural events, scholarship incentives, one-on-one tutorial assistance, and a parent enrichment program for adults. The Center served 205 students from January - June 1994. These students represent a variety of cultures and ethnic backgrounds and come from more than 35 schools in the Portland metro area. Along with community volunteers, more than 100 students from the School of Education at Portland State University did their field placement work at the Center.

## **PORTLAND STREET ACADEMY**

The Portland Street Academy is a learning center for junior and high school age students. Up to fifty students attend the school Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. until 3 p.m. Some students are working toward their GED, some are planning to transition back into Portland Public Schools, and some are earning their diplomas while at the Academy through an arrangement with Portland Public Schools. The Academy is located at the League's Whitney M. Young, Jr. Education & Cultural Center.

The school is structured so that students deal with academic issues as well as social issues. The curriculum includes Female/Male Responsibility Groups, the Computer Training Center, special speakers, Matt Dishman Recreation Center, Anger Management, Conflict Resolutions, special projects and field trips.

## **THE FEMALE & MALE RESPONSIBILITY PROGRAM**

The goal of the Female & Male Responsibility Program is to provide youth ongoing direction and positive alternatives for personal development. The program is designed to identify and promote positive values, developing a positive self-image, being accountable for one's actions and reactions, promoting community involvement and taking necessary steps to becoming academically prepared.

The Male Responsibility Program coordinated the Youth Summer Employment program for a third year in 1994. This program provides an avenue for young men to work who would not otherwise have the opportunity. During that time, they also build fundamental skills that they take with them in all avenues of life. We hope to have an opportunity for females to do this in 1995.

## **COMPUTER TRAINING CENTER**

The IBM/Urban League Computer Training Center opened its doors on August 30, 1993. The Center offers a 15-week program, Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. The Center offers two viable components: 1) Career and Job Development and 2) Computer Center Lab. These components consist of instruction in business math and English, job readiness skills, resume writing, job interviewing skills, special speakers, as well as instruction in DOS, WordPerfect, spreadsheets, database and desktop publishing.

Thirty-five students have graduated from the Center thus far. At the graduation celebration students received Certificates of Achievement and special awards. Graduates work closely with our Employment Division for potential job placement. Our Cycle III students started on May 10, 1994 and are well on their way to graduating. We have started Saturday classes and are hoping for evening classes in the future.

**THE URBAN LEAGUE OF PORTLAND  
THANKS ITS 1993/94 CORPORATE AND INDIVIDUAL SPONSORS**

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Dotten & Assoc.  
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Georgetown Manor  
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KINK Radio  
KWJJ Radio

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**Individuals**

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**Program Sponsors**

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**THE URBAN LEAGUE OF PORTLAND  
THANKS ITS 1993/94 CORPORATE AND INDIVIDUAL SPONSORS**

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Northwest Temporary  
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Oregon Credit Union League  
Oregon Health Sciences  
University  
Oregon Liquor Control  
Commission  
Oregon State University  
Oregon Steel Mills

Orix Credit Alliance  
Pacific First Bank  
PacifiCorp Financial  
Services  
Pepsi Cola (Alpac)  
Plaid Panteries  
Popper Supply Co.  
Port of Portland  
Portland - City of  
Portland Community  
College  
Portland General  
Electric  
Portland Police Assoc.  
Portland Teachers'  
Credit Union  
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Public Financial  
Management  
Quality Medical Plans  
Realtors Multiple Listing  
Services  
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Rose City Electric  
Safeway Stores  
Schnitzer Steel  
Industries  
Schwabe Williamson  
& Wyatt  
SEH America  
Southland Corp.  
STC Submarine  
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Tonkon Torp Galen  
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Oregon  
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Weston Pontiac  
Zimmer Gunsul Frasca

## EMPLOYMENT DEPARTMENT

The League's Employment Department helps minorities, women and others find suitable employment in the Portland metro area. Many local companies and organizations have become "Employer Partners" with the Urban League. The goal of the **Employer Partnership Program** is to help African Americans and other people of color achieve economic parity through employment. The original partners included: First Interstate Bank, Mentor Graphics, Nike, Standard Insurance, and U.S. Bancorp. Since then Arby's, Arco, Bank of America, Boeing, CH<sub>2</sub>M Hill, Cellular One, City of Gresham, Electro Scientific Industries, Express Services, Halton Co., IDS Financial Services, Intel, Key Bank, McDonald's, Meier & Frank, Nationwide Insurance, North Pacific Insurance, Northwest Natural Gas, Olsten Staffing, Orix Corp., Saif Corp., Tektronix, United Parcel Service, U.S. Navy, Veterans Medical Center, Wacker Siltronic, Washington Mutual Savings and Zellerbach Industries have joined.

Partners send staff to work in the League's Employment Department periodically as volunteers, performing similar duties as the League's staff: interviewing, referring clients to job openings, counseling and pre-screening clients. The addition of these volunteers has improved services for job seekers and helped employers become more sensitive and aware of cultural diversity issues in the work place.

During 1993 the Department placed 370 people in jobs. Recruitment focuses on all protected class job seekers. The department also holds monthly resume and interview preparation workshops. Each March the Department hosts the **"Career Connections"** job fair. In 1994 more than 2,000 job seekers and employers attended.

This year the Department is participating in the Dislocated Workers Project, a partnership of Portland Community College, Mt. Hood Community College, Oregon State Employment Division, The Private Industry Council, and the Urban League of Portland. The program offers assistance in re-employment services to workers affected by long periods of unemployment due to plant closures, restructuring, relocations, or workforce reductions. Services offered are training referrals, individual career counseling, and job referrals.

## YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES

The Youth & Family Service Center is one of six centers that Multnomah County has designated as "Family Centers". The new designation is central to the creation of a system within the county which focuses on the resiliency of the family and each of its members. The emphasis during the last fiscal year has been on assisting the whole family in meeting its needs in relationship to each other.

The Center worked with over 900 youth and families during the year. Activity areas included individual and family counseling, gang awareness and prevention, parent and teen support groups, education and employment assistance, Big Brother and Big Sister Volunteer involvement and the Diversion Program.

In the Diversion Program juveniles referred by the courts provided over 1,600 hours of community service to organizations like the Grace Collins Pre-School, Quad Inc./Meyer Court, Loaves and Fishes, the Whitney M. Young, Jr. Education & Cultural Center and 43 other groups. The voluntary alternative to involvement in the court system allows youth to actively take the responsibility for their actions while assisting non-profit organizations in the community. Community service helps youth understand the connection between their actions and the community they live in.

The Big Brothers and Big Sisters Program, despite several staff changes, provided over 2,000 hours to 57 Little Brothers and Sisters. Sixteen matches were made during the year. The Southeast Asian Youth program also experienced changes this year but continued to grow and provide group work around cultural identity and assisted in the development of new programs targeting Asian youth. The Counseling program continued groups for youth and adults in Gang Awareness and Violence as a Public Health Problem, while the new Rainbow group offered support to youth with issues surrounding sexual identity.

The Youth Employment program was very successful this year, placing over 150 youth in a variety of jobs. Special programs and grants were given by the Private Industry Council and the U.S.D.A. Forest Service for special summer employment programs.

## ADVOCACY

The Urban League advocates on a broad range of issues to improve the quality of life for African Americans and other disenfranchised groups and individuals. The **goals** of the program are to:

- (1) **Empower** constituents to understand and protect their rights and help agencies provide accessible and accountable service so that clients can become more self-sufficient;
- (2) **Educate and Inform** organizations and the public about issues that negatively impact our constituents;
- (3) **Effect change** in attitudes, policies, institutions and social conditions through collaborative problem solving and creating new alternatives and solutions.

Program components include:

**Research and Education** -- Conduct research and develop concept papers, positions and testimonies on issues pertinent to constituents; educate African Americans and others about existing and emerging issues negatively impacting their quality of life and empower them to effect change.

**Legislative** -- Create and influence legislation; educate elected officials.

**Mediation and Conflict Resolution** -- Examples include the League's role as mediator after the Rodney King verdicts and numerous job discrimination cases.

## URBAN LEAGUE OF PORTLAND STAFF

### ADMINISTRATION

Lawrence J. Dark . . . . . President/CEO  
Michael Pullen . . . . . Director of Marketing  
Don Chalmers . . . . . Administrative Assistant  
Nova Hill . . . . . Receptionist  
Sontosha Duckett . . . . . Receptionist  
Lovell Jones . . . . . Building Superintendent

### FINANCE

Cletus Moore, Jr. . . . . V.P., Finance/Administration  
Carla Prevost . . . . . Membership Information

### EDUCATION & CAREER DEVELOPMENT

Herman L. Lessard, Jr. . . . . Director  
Mia Sims . . . . . Administrative Assistant  
Curtis Scott . . . . . Coordinator, Female & Male Responsibility

### WHITNEY M. YOUNG, JR. EDUCATION CENTER

Gloria Phillips . . . . . Tutor  
Lemil Speed . . . . . Tutor  
Yaw Osei-Boye . . . . . Tutor

### PORTLAND STREET ACADEMY

Gaylen Brannon . . . . . Coordinator  
Brian Trostel . . . . . Instructor

### COMPUTER TRAINING CENTER

Sue Sargent . . . . . Instructor

### EMPLOYMENT

Brenda Sherman-Sanders . . . . . Director  
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Donna Mackey . . . . . Employment Specialist  
James Moore . . . . . Dislocated Workers/Outreach Coordinator  
Christie Hauff . . . . . Office Assistant  
Jeanette Davis . . . . . Office Assistant

### NORTHEAST YOUTH SERVICE CENTER

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Larry Clayton . . . . . Assistant Director  
Pamela Davis . . . . . Counselor  
Shala Moaydie . . . . . Counselor  
Tony Ross . . . . . Youth Employment Coordinator  
Katy Isa . . . . . Employment/Diversion Specialist  
Jennifer Ninh . . . . . Southeast Asian Youth Specialist  
Daniel Blue . . . . . Big Brother/Big Sister Coordinator  
Carol Roberts . . . . . Big Brother/Big Sister Assistant  
Thomas Hardy . . . . . Diversion Coordinator  
Paul Kelly . . . . . Diversion Specialist  
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Herbert Hager . . . . . Information Specialist  
Charles Nelson . . . . . Office Assistant

### ADULT AND SENIOR SERVICE CENTER

Esther Hinson . . . . . Director  
Pauline Reed . . . . . Activities Coordinator  
Josephine Brown . . . . . Lead Case Manager  
Daisylin Oten . . . . . Case Manager  
Bettye Walker . . . . . Case Manager  
Juanita Baldwin . . . . . Information & Referral Specialist  
Crucita White . . . . . Grandparents Program Coordinator  
Dora McCrae . . . . . Alzheimer's Coordinator

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